

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

APRIL 25, 1822.

The Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to whom was referred the act of the legislature of Mississippi, making appropriations for the Natchez Hospital, beg leave to

REPORT:

That the assent of Congress is asked to this act of the legislature of Mississippi, by which it is enacted "that every flat bottomed boat, or keel boat, barge, or steam boat, descending the Mississippi, and arriving at the landing of the city of Natchez, from any place without the limits of this state, and coming to, and landing at, said landing place, shall be liable for the payment of the following sums, to wit: For every flat bottomed boat, keel boat, or barge, of the capacity of one hundred barrels, and not exceeding two hundred, the sum of three dollars; if exceeding the capacity of two hundred barrels, the sum of four dollars; and for every steam boat, the sum of five dollars; and for every commander, officer, boat-hands, on board such flat bottomed boat, barge, or steam boat, the sum of fifty cents; for which said several sums the captain, owner, or person having charge of such flat bottomed boat, keel boat, barge, or steam boat, shall be liable to the collector of the city of Natchez, whose duty it shall be to collect and receive the same." It is also provided by the act that the moneys thus to be collected shall be for the use of the Natchez Hospital; to be appropriated, exclusively, to the relief of sick boatmen, and others, concerned and employed in the navigation of the Mississippi.

The committee are of opinion that this act, if it should receive the assent of Congress, and be carried into effect, would, in many instances, operate oppressively upon those employed in the navigation of the Mississippi, and those concerned in trade and business upon the said river, and that it would be so considered by the states immediately affected by the provisions of the act. The committee submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is not expedient to grant the assent of Congress to the act of the legislature of the state of Mississippi, making appropriations for the Natchez Hospital.